

Indiana Dunes State Park

1600 N. 25 E.

Chesterton, Indiana 46304

NC # (219) 926-1390

Park Manager: Brandt Baughman

Asst. Park Manager: Mickey Rea



Nature Center Staff:

Brad Bumgardner

Kaitlin Rogers

Matt Beatty



September Nature Center Hours:

9:30am - 4:30pm CDT Daily

Need a Park Map?

www.interpretiveservices.in.gov

All programs are free (unless otherwise noted) and open to the public after paying the park entrance fee. Our interpretive programs are designed to entertain and enrich folks of all ages. Children under 12, please bring an adult.

Friday September 4

9am Beach Yoga! Bleu Lotus Yoga offers an all levels yoga class on the beautiful dunes beach. Cost is \$10 per session. For more information or to register, visit www.bleulotusyoga.com or call 299-YOGA. Classes are cancelled in inclement weather.

10am Dunes History Hike. Traverse some of the high dunes this morning as we explore our rich history along the way. Meet at the Campground Shelter for this hour hike. KR

3pm Behind the Scenes of the Dunes Nature Center. Ever wonder what's behind that door? Join Matt in the Nature Center Auditorium for a fun look at unveiling the mystique behind our state park nature centers. We'll look at hidden displays and give a behind the scenes tour afterwards. MB

6:30pm Sunset Beach Yoga! Bleu Lotus Yoga offers an all levels yoga class on the beautiful dunes beach. Cost is \$10 per session. For more information or to register, visit www.bleulotusyoga.com or call 299-YOGA. Classes are cancelled in inclement weather.

7:30pm Night Hike! Hike into the growing darkness with the naturalist tonight! We'll explore the critters that call this place home and how they survive this strange world. Meet at the Campground Gate. BB

Saturday September 5

9:30am Indiana's Greatest Hike! Come check out what USA Today voted as Indiana's greatest hike. We'll meet at the Nature Center for this 1.5 hour trek onto trail 9 and into the blowouts. It's a great view and a great time. Bring a water bottle. MB

3pm Skunk Funk! No it's not your brother stinking up the place! Make your way to the Nature Center for a fun look at the stinky animals of the dunes. KR

7:30pm Bat Chat! Swoop into the Nature Center Program Area for a fun look at the bats of the dunes. We'll be using special iPad apps to detect and identify the bats around us this evening. Join us for this high tech critter search. KR



Sunday September 6

8:30am *Informal Church Service at the Campground Shelter.*

9am Beach Yoga! Bleu Lotus Yoga offers an all levels yoga class on the beautiful dunes beach. Cost is \$10 per session. For more information or to register, visit www.bleulotusyoga.com or call 299-YOGA. Classes are cancelled in inclement weather.

10am Another Dam Hike! Meet the naturalist for a 45 minute easy stroll looking as we take you to the beaver dam and back. Check out what the beavers are up to this fine day! Meet at the Campground Gate and prepare for some off trail and creek walking. BB

3pm Reptile Review! What's it like being a reptile in the dunes? Find out in this fun 45 minute discovery program at the Nature Center outside program area. We'll discuss the turtles, snakes, and lizards of the park! MB

6:30pm Sunset Spectacular! Throw on your hiking shoes, put up the food from the raccoons, and join us for a glimpse of Indiana's greatest sunset! We'll meet at the Campground Gate and take the easier route up to Mt. Tom, from where we'll have a great view of the sun setting right next to Chicago. Great way to end a fun day in the dunes! MB

Monday, September 7

Happy Labor Day!

10am Feed the Birds. Join us outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and finches! MB

3pm September Flora Walk. Enjoy a relaxing end to your weekend as we identify some of the early fall flowers going into bloom right now. Meet at the Nature Center. Total time about 45 minutes. MB

Thursday September 10

9am Beach Yoga! Bleu Lotus Yoga offers an all levels yoga class on the beautiful dunes beach. Cost is \$10 per session. For more information or to register, visit www.bleulotusyoga.com or call 299-YOGA. Classes are cancelled in inclement weather.

Friday September 11

9am Beach Yoga! Bleu Lotus Yoga offers an all levels yoga class on the beautiful dunes beach. Cost is \$10 per session. For more information or to register, visit www.bleulotusyoga.com or call 299-YOGA. Classes are cancelled in inclement weather.

6:30pm Sunset Beach Yoga! Bleu Lotus Yoga offers an all levels yoga class on the beautiful dunes beach. Cost is \$10 per session. For more information on beach yoga sessions or to register, visit www.bleulotusyoga.com or call 299-YOGA. Classes are cancelled in inclement weather.

Saturday, September 12

History Comes Alive Weekend!

Join us for special activities all weekend!

9am-7pm Fur Trader Encampment.

Be sure to visit the Ouiatenon Brigade on the beach east of the pavilion as they re-enact the early French fur traders of the area.

10am Beaver Trading Hike! Meet the naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a trek through the dunes, and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago! Bring your beaver pelt, or borrow one of ours! BB

2pm Wild Edibles... then and now. Many of the native plants needed by early explorers to survive are still among us today. Check out some of these wild edibles on this fascinating walk meeting outside the Nature Center. We'll be out for about an hour. MB

8pm Insects Alive! Fly to the Wilson Shelter tonight for a fascinating discovery of the fall insects around us! We'll be joined by Purdue researchers who will have special sheets and lighting out in search of our great biodiversity. Come on out! MB

Sunday September 13

8am Fall Birding Join us for a morning of fall migrant birding. We'll explore the back dune sites known for finding migrant warblers, thrushes, and more. Total time an hour or just a little more. Bring binoculars or borrow a pair of ours. Meet at the Campground Gate. MB



9am-1pm Fur Trader Encampment. Be sure to visit the Ouiatenon Brigade on the beach east of the beach pavilion as they re-enact the fur-trading era.

9am Beach Yoga! Bleu Lotus Yoga offers an all levels yoga class on the beautiful dunes beach. Cost is \$10 per session. For more information or to register, visit www.bleulotusyoga.com or call 299-YOGA. Classes are cancelled in inclement weather.

10am Beaver Trading Hike! Meet the naturalist at the Campground Shelter for a trek through the dunes, and a meeting with the early French fur traders that inhabited this area nearly 200 years ago! Bring your beaver pelt, or borrow one of ours! MB

2pm 100 Years of Indiana State Parks. Join us in the Nature Center auditorium for this 50-minute documentary that captures 100 years of the Indiana State Parks. Come check it out!

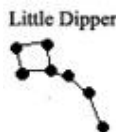


Saturday September 19

10am The 3 Dune Challenge! Strap on your hiking shoes for this year's greatest hike! Meet at the Nature Center for a grand tour of the three highest public dunes in the state! Then, get your free stickers to show everyone you conquered "the 3 dune challenge!" MB

2pm Trek to the Paw Paw Patch! Join Matt for a hike down Trail 2 to visit the many Paw Paw patches in the park. We'll be on search for some "Indiana Bananas" before coming back. Meet at the Wilson Shelter for this hour jaunt. MB

7pm Singing Sands Star Show! Join us for our annual event. Meet local astronomers from the Calumet Astronomical Society for a night of star gazing. Special telescopes will be set up as well as periodic constellation talks. Bring a blanket and join us on the main beach, near the pavilion. Activities going on through 11pm. Optimal star gazing after 8pm. BB, MB



Sunday September 20

9am Fall Migration Hike. Join us for a morning of fall migrant birding. We'll be checking out migrants near the bird tower site and into the picnic area. Meet by the main entrance gate parking lot. Bring binoculars, or borrow a pair of ours. BB

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for all! MB

11am-1pm Bird Banding Demonstrations. Come see some of our wild, migrating birds up close this morning. We'll explore the science of bird banding and allow close up looks at some of our resident and migrating birds. It's a popular event, so we'll be banding a few hours. BB

2pm Tree ID Trek! Let's explore some simple ways to ID the trees here in the park and in your own backyard. Perfect for those with leaf ID projects coming up. Meet outside the Nature Center. MB

Saturday September 26

10am High Dunes Hiking! Gather at the Campground Shelter, by site 113, for a high dunes adventure over Mt. Tom and into the valley we call Ecology Cove. We'll return on Trail 7 and be back within an hour. Strap on your hiking shoes and join us! KR

2pm An Apple a Day! It's our favorite fall fruit! Join Kaitlin for a little apple quiz as we make some apple treats over the campfire. Come test your knowledge and have a taste at the Nature Center Program Area! KR



Sunday September 27

10am and 2pm Beach Glass Jewelry Workshops! Register for one of two special workshops that will allow users to learn the art of wire-wrapping and make your own beach glass or stone jewelry during this 1.5 hour session. Space is limited (extra spots held for campers!) and the workshop takes place in the Nature Center Auditorium. \$5/person workshop fee. Register by calling 219-926-1390.

10am Feed the Birds. Join the Naturalist outside the Nature Center for the daily feeding of our birds. Get great close up views of chickadees, cardinals, and woodpeckers! Great fun for all! MB

2pm A Cacti Crawl! Find your way to the Beach Pavilion for a fun look at the real native cacti of the dunes... the prickly pear! We'll search them out and look at what makes them so special. Hopefully, a few will be in fruit too! Total time about one hour. MB